VOTING SYSTEM CERTIFICATION

One of Secretary of State Bruce McPherson's top priorities is to usher California into a new era of voting system technology while ensuring the integrity of every vote cast. As federal requirements evolve and technology advances, he is committed to providing Californians with only the highest quality and most reliable voting systems available.

- ✓ Under the leadership of Secretary McPherson, no voting system will be certified for use in California unless it passes the most rigorous certification process in the nation. This process is designed to ensure security, reliability and usability.

- ✓ Secretary McPherson has for the first time outlined 10 clearly defined requirements for voting system certification in the state, including the nation's first "volume test." This test will ensure that any system used in California will withstand Election Day levels of activity prior to certification.

- ✓ Secretary McPherson has established strict security requirements that voting machines must comply with, and he will take any additional necessary steps to ensure a system is secure for use prior to certification.

- ✓ An essential component of the certification process is public input, and Secretary McPherson will continue to hold public hearings prior to certifying any new voting systems for use in California. The hearings have been, and will continue to be, conducted by members of the Secretary's executive staff and technical experts. All public input will be thoroughly reviewed and presented to Secretary McPherson as part of his decision-making process.

- ✓ In addition to putting in place rigorous certification requirements, Secretary McPherson has established a new Office of Voting Systems Technology Assessment to serve as a one-stop shop for vendors applying for system certification. He firmly believes the process must be rigorous, but that it should also be efficient and streamlined to best serve his partners, the county elections officials, and the voters of California.

- ✓ Secretary McPherson believes that supplying counties with certified systems in a timely manner is absolutely essential. However, he has been clear that only systems that meet these stringent requirements will be certified for use in California, because to do less would be a disservice to California's voters.

10 Voting System Certification Requirements:

1. An application that includes proof of federal certification, (i.e. copies of the United States Election Assistance Commission [EAC] approved Independent Testing Authority [ITA] reports and certification number issued by the EAC).

2. All applications must include full documentation, including technical and operational specifications, operating and maintenance manuals, training materials, and copies of all promotional materials from the vendor.

3. Each system must have comprehensive use procedures applicable for use of the system in California elections in conformance with state law and Secretary of State guidelines for voting system use procedures.

4. Each vendor must establish a California County User Group and hold at least one annual meeting where all California users and Secretary of State staff are invited to attend and review the system and ensure voter accessibility.

5. In addition to depositing the source code in an approved escrow facility, each vendor must deposit a copy of the system source code and binary executables with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State reserves the right to perform a full independent review of the source code.

6. Voting system vendors shall provide to the Secretary of State, on request, a working version of the components, including all hardware, software and firmware, of the voting system that is proposed for use in an election, for the purposes of analysis and testing. These components shall be maintained in working order by the vendor.

7. Multiple independently tested and certified voting systems may be used together to meet federal and state requirements so long as their interface is limited to exchange of aggregated vote totals and/or ballot layout.

8. Components of a certified voting system may not be combined with components of a previously but separately certified system without certification by the Secretary of State as an entirely new system.

9. The vendor for each system that utilizes paper ballots will be required to provide printing specifications for those ballots to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will certify printers to print ballots for each system based upon their demonstrated ability to do so. Vendors may not require exclusivity in ballot printing and must cooperate fully in certification testing of ballots produced by other ballot printers.

10. All systems will be subject to volume testing as defined by established Secretary of State standards prior to certification in California.